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Letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Croatia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to draw your attention to the joint statement of the President of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic, and the President of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, of 12 July 2006 on the occasion of the official visit of President Mesic to Montenegro (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under item 80 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Mirjana **Mladineo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nebojša **Kaluđerović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations

* A/61/150

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Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Croatia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

STATEMENT
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
AND
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

The Presidents of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro, Stjepan Mesic and Filip Vujanovic, met on 12 July 2006 in Podgorica and, after having exchanged views on the conditions and prospects of the relations between the two countries, and the circumstances in the greater region, in an open and friendly atmosphere,

aware of the fact that the relations between Croatia and Montenegro are an inseparable part of the network of regional cooperation in Southeast Europe,

sincerely dedicated to the acceptance and implementation of European standards and criteria as the basis for bringing the region as a whole closer to united Europe,

determined to establish and develop relations between the independent states of Croatia and Montenegro in the interest of both countries and of all their citizens, and in the interest of lasting stability in the region,

committed to peace, stability and security as the only foundation for the building of the new architecture of relations in this part of Europe,

HAVE JOINTLY STATED:

1. Our strategic goals are peace, stability and security, and we will devote all our energy and action to their achievement.

2. We agree that facing the truth about the past, including the period of disintegration of the former Yugoslav federation, is an imperative condition for successful progress to the future.

3. Only individuals can be held accountable for the war crimes committed on either side, and the pernicious thesis about the collective guilt of individual nations can be countered most efficiently through cooperation with the International Tribunal in The Hague.

4. We are prepared to develop relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro in line with principles of full equality and mutual benefit, proceeding from the awareness that such relations are also significant for the overall political climate in the whole region.

5. In the development of the concept of cooperation between the two countries due attention ought to be paid to the fact that both the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro are Adriatic and Mediterranean countries.

6. Democracy and European standards and criteria are the only basis for the establishment of relations between the two states appropriate to the present moment and for laying lasting foundations for such relations in the time ahead.

7. We want to develop our relations with all neighbouring countries in a good neighbourly spirit and a spirit of non-interference in their internal affairs. We will consistently oppose every attempt to resolve open issues in relations between states by encroaching upon territories of other states.

8. Democracy, as our continuous commitment, can only be built successfully by consistent respect of human and minority rights. The legitimate concern for the members of the ethnic minorities, Croats in Montenegro and Montenegrins in Croatia, must never serve as a pretext for turning minorities into a tool serving the achievement of particular goals of the state of their parent nation.

9. Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro will be focused on meeting and promoting the interests and requirements of all the citizens of the two states. Such cooperation, including cooperation realized through joint appearances in international organizations and third markets, shall not be levelled against of any third country or group of countries.

10. Membership in European and Euroatlantic integrations is the strategic goal of both states. The Republic of Montenegro supports the Republic of Croatia, which is negotiating as a candidate country its accession to the European Union. Within the scope of its policy of mutual assistance and support the Republic of Croatia is prepared to share with the Republic of Montenegro its experience acquired in the achievement of these foreign policy priorities.

This Statement has been drawn up in two copies, one in the Croatian and one in the Montenegrin language, both having the force of the original.

Podgorica, 12 July 2006